Comment Form

STATE DEPARTMENT

Title: Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption; Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000; Accreditation — of Agencies; Approval of Persons; Preservation of Convention Records; Extension of Comment Period Subject Category: Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000: Hague Convention—Agency accreditation and person approval

Docket Id: RIN 1400-AA-88; 1400-AB-69

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Comments Due: December 15, 2003

Phase: PROPOSED RULES

How To Comment:

Commenters may send hard copy submissions or comments in electronic format. Commenters sending only hard copies must send an original and two copies referencing docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Hard copy comments may also be sent by overnight courier services to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Donot personally hand deliver comments to the Department of State. Comments referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 may be submitted electronically to adoptionregs@state.gov. Two hard copies of the comments submitted electronically must be mailed under separate cover as well. Electronic comments must be made in the text of the message or submitted as a Word file avoiding the use of any form of encryption or use of special characters. If you submit comments by hard copy rather than electronically, include a disk with the submission if possible. Hard copy submissions without an accompanying disk file, however, will be accepted.

Your comment has been sent. To verify that this agency has received your comment, please contact the agency directly. If you wish to retain a copy of your comment, print out a copy of this document for your files.

Please note your REGULATIONS.GOV number.

Regulations.gov #: EREG - 12

Date Submitted: Dec 15, 2003

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Comment

RE: 22CFR Parts 96 and 98 I am concerned about the proposed regulations being drafted to enforce the Hague Convention that regulates international adoption. These regulations will severely limit the options that American families have who want to build a family through international adoption as we have done. My husband Howard and I and our twin six-year-old boys welcomed our daughter Allie home from Russia this summer. After experiencing infertility and premature birth issues, adoption was the best way for us to expand our family to include a healthy baby girl. She has been a true blessing to our lives. When we started our adoption journey, it was important to us to use an agency in our state. We found Worldwide, a family-run agency that provides extended services before, during and after adoption that met our needs. One of the nicest things about working with a smaller agency is that you have direct contact with the owners. Since the main contacts at Worldwide are also South Carolina adoptive parents, they know how to exactly advise us through the process to make it go as smoothly as possible. I am still in touch with them as they provide assistance to support Allie?s transition into our family. Although the intent of the changes to the Hague Convention seem honorable, the actual regulations being developed by the US Department of State will make it impossible for smaller agencies like Worldwide to continue in existence. For those agencies that do remain, the fees will have to skyrocket to cover these latest costs. This will make it impossible for many American families to have the dream they?ve always wanted and mean that hundreds of children will never know the love of a family. Please reconsider these new regulations and their impact on the world of international adoption. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Mary Anne Byrd